

of quite a new description, not only on account of its seaweed material and beautiful construction, but also from its unique position in "pig-face" so very near the ground. Silver-eyes and Sericorns seem to be the pioneers of Passerine birds. Except for a stray percher or two, they admit of no rivalry in their monarchy.

[To be continued.]

IX.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 39, July 1901, and No. 40, October 1901.]

In recording the occurrence of *Linota rostrata* (Coues) from Barra, Outer Hebrides, Mr. W. Eagle Clarke justly observes that "a knowledge of the various races of the Arctic or Mealy Redpolls inhabiting the Old and the New Worlds is desirable for the more precise study of the British birds of the group"; but some of us may think that "this way madness lies" before such knowledge is attained. Mr. George Sim's announcement of the capture of a Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) near Aberdeen on April 16th last is of considerable interest, for this is only the second record for Great Britain of a species which is emphatically migratory and nests annually at no greater distance from us than the banks of the Mosel; so that instances of its more frequent occurrence might be reasonably expected. Moreover there is not much chance of a large raptorial bird escaping observation—not to say destruction—in these days. Mr. T. G. Laidlaw concludes his Report on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland during 1900; and from this, as well as from some minor notices for 1901, it is evident that the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryocopus major*) is decidedly increasing as regards frequency of breeding in the south of Scotland. Mr. Sturrock states that in the south of Shetland, in 1901, he captured a Redstart (*Ruticilla phaniceus*) in the act of building a

nest, and that he also found many nests of the Willow-Wren (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), both new breeders for Shetland. Mr. James McL. Marshall follows with some notes made between April and July in the vicinity of St. Mary's Loch, Selkirkshire; and, from a significant omission, we gather that "on still St. Mary's lake" the Swan no longer "floats double, swan and shadow." Some evidence of the nesting of the Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) in West Ross-shire deserves mention.—H. S.

2. *Aplin on the Birds of Carnarvonshire.*

[Further Notes from Lleyn, West Carnarvonshire. By O. V. Aplin, F.L.S. Zoologist, 1901, pp. 141-150.]

In this, as well as in a previous paper published in the same periodical (Zool. 1900, p. 489), Mr. Aplin has given a pleasing account of his rambles over the western parts of Carnarvonshire, and of his adventures in search of the birds of that district. Bardsey Island, where the Manx Shearwater appears still to breed, was also visited. No special rarity was observed, unless it be the Purple Sandpiper, of which three occurrences were noted during the two visits.

3. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on Birds from Dalmatia.*

[Nota su una Piccola raccolta di Uccelli del Museo di Zagabria provenienti dal Litorale Dalmato. Atti R. Ist. Veneto d. Sci. lx. pp. 575-585.]

Count Arrigoni has carefully compared the specimens in a small collection of birds made for him by Herr Brusina (Director of the National Zoological Museum of Agram) on the Dalmatian littoral with others from various localities in the Palæarctic region, and notes the results. Count Arrigoni seems to be of the opinion that it is not easy to separate *Hypolais icterina* and *H. polyglotta* satisfactorily.

4. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xviii. Nos. 3 and 4, July and October 1901.]

Passing over some papers of purely American interest,

Mr. Ruthven Deane's contribution of the unpublished letters of William Macgillivray to Audubon deserves attention on this side of the Atlantic. Messrs. Bangs and Bradlee give a list of the birds of Bermuda, and describe three island forms which they consider to be worthy of full specific distinction. As an outlier, Bermuda has been visited by several wanderers from the Old World, and long ago Col. H. W. Feilden recorded the Lapwing there, but now *Vanellus vulgaris* has travelled still further to the south-west and has been obtained near Nassau, Bahamas. In Mr. A. C. Bent's first instalment of a paper, with photogravures, on the nesting-habits of the Anatidæ in North Dakota, all the species mentioned are on the British list. Mr. Outram Bangs gives a list of birds obtained in the vicinity of Chiriqui, with several new species which may be left to the recorder of "Aves" in our 'Zoological Record.' A paper by H. Lyman Clark on the Classification of Birds, based on pterylosis, deserves the attention of experts; and if the demands on our space would permit we might quote his conclusions (p. 380), but an abstract would hardly do them justice. A valuable paper, by Mr. W. A. Bryan, on Hawaiian birds, will interest all those ornithologists who study geographical distribution and lines of migration. We must not omit to mention that pp. 295-320 contain the Tenth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-list.—H. S.

5. *Bernacchi on Antarctic Birds.*

[To the South Polar Regions, expedition of 1898-1900. By Louis Bernacchi, F.R.G.S. London: Hurst and Blackett, 1901. Price 12s. net.]

No one interested in Antarctic Research should fail to read Mr. Bernacchi's narrative of his experiences with Borchgrevink's expedition of 1898-1900, which he accompanied as Physicist. The author does not claim to be an ornithologist, but there are necessarily constant references to birds throughout his pages, while several excellent photographs of Penguins and Penguin-life are given. His account of the curious ways and habits of the Antarctic Penguin (*Pygosceles adeliæ*) is the best and most complete that has

yet been published. It appears (p. 225) that ten specimens of the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) were captured alive, but made their escape from the enclosure in which they were confined. We hope that the National Antarctic Expedition will not return without some living examples of this fine bird. Its near ally, *A. patachonica*, does well in captivity.

6. *Bryan's Key to the Birds of the Hawaiian Group.*

[A Key to the Birds of the Hawaiian Group. By William Alanson Bryan. Honolulu, 1901. 4to. Pp. 76.]

The Curator of Ornithology in the Bernice-Pauahi-Bishop Museum furnishes us with a key to the Hawaiian Avifauna, which may be useful to those who are studying the remarkable forms of that group. It begins at the bottom, after the American fashion, and contains diagnoses of 120 species. We cannot say that we admire the 15 photographic plates of dead birds that illustrate the work, though they will doubtless tend to assist in the determination of the species.

We are told, in the Preface, that the Museum in question "now possesses the most representative collection of the Hawaiian Avifauna extant," containing upwards of 600 specimens, amongst which is the famous Mills Collection, and that constant additions are made to it by the Museum's skilled collector, Mr. A. Seale.

We venture to suggest that an octavo Handbook of the whole Hawaiian Avifauna, with references to the two great illustrated works of Wilson and Evans and of Rothschild, would be a desirable undertaking.

7. *Burckhart on Psophia and Rhinocetus.*

[Der Nestling von *Psophia crepitans* und das Jugendkleid von *Rhinocetus jubatus*. Von Rudolf Burckhardt. Nov. Act. K. L.-C. D. Akad. Naturf., Halle, lxxix. No. 1, 1901.]

Prof. Burckhardt describes and figures the nestling of *Psophia* and the plumage of the young of *Rhinocetus*. He notes that the colour of the nestling of *Psophia* has no

likeness to that of the adult bird, being of a reddish brown. The corresponding plumage of *Rhinochetus* is interesting in that it is more elaborate in pattern and varied in colour than that of the adult; it is, indeed, not altogether unlike that of *Eurypyga*.

8. *Finn on the Birds of the Indian Museum.*

[List of the Birds in the Indian Museum. Part I. Families *Corvidæ*, *Paradiseidæ*, *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, and *Crateropodidæ*. By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S., Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum. 8vo. Calcutta, 1901. Pp. i-xv, 1-115. Price 1 rupee.]

The Indian Museum at Calcutta, formerly the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, is a most important Institution as regards Natural History, and especially Ornithology, for it contains numerous specimens contributed to it by all the best-known authorities on the birds of British India—not to mention the many types of Blyth, Jerdon, and other authors. It is quite right that a new list of its rich contents should be prepared, Blyth's well-known Catalogue having been issued as long ago as 1849. Mr. W. L. Sclater was at work upon it when he left India, and, as Mr. Finn tells us in his Preface, the manuscript of the present volume was prepared under his direction. Mr. Finn's chief task "has, therefore, been to see it through the press, after intercalating the numerous accessions made since the work was written."

The instalment of the List now before us deals with the Passerine families *Corvidæ*, *Paradiseidæ*, *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, and *Crateropodidæ* only, which are represented in the Indian Museum by 3301 specimens belonging to 416 species. About 66 specimens are types, mostly of Blyth. Of these a list was prepared by Mr. W. L. Sclater and published in this Journal in 1892 (*Ibis*, 1892, p. 73).

The only references given in this List are to the volumes of the 'Fauna of British India' and of the British Museum Catalogue. The specimens of each species are then enumerated, with the localities, authorities, and the Museum Index-numbers appended. The distribution of each species is shortly stated.

We trust that this useful piece of work, once started, may be brought to a speedy conclusion. No reason is given for the long delay of ten years which has taken place since the MS. was prepared.

9. *Finsch on the Birds of the Südwest Islands.*

[Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel der Südwest-Inseln von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxii. pp. 225-309.]

The "Südwest" are a chain of volcanic islands in the Banda Sea, some 27 in number, which extend eastwards from Timor to the Tenimber Islands. After an elaborate disquisition on what has been already done with regard to ornithology in this group by the collectors and naturalists of Holland, Germany, and England, Dr. Finsch calls special attention to the large collections recently made there for the Leyden Museum by Karl Schadler, who had previously worked in New Guinea and Amboina. Some of these have already been described (see Notes Leyd. Mus. xx. p. 129), but their interest is such that Dr. Finsch has been induced to put together a complete account of them, to which are added references to all the previous authorities on the subject. We have thus before us an excellent memoir on the Ornis of this interesting island-group, which, so far as it has yet been explored, is shown to be the home of 123 species. Of these, 21 are peculiar to the group. One species (*Rhipidura reichenowi*) is now described as new, the other novelties having been already characterized. On three plates appended to this memoir some of the more remarkable species of the Südwest group are depicted—*Sphecotheres hypoleucus*, *Gerygone kisserensis*, *G. wetterensis*, *Rhipidura reichenowi*, *Stigmatops notabilis*, and *Alopecænas hoedti*. The last-named is a very curious form of Ground-Dove discovered by Hoedt in Wetter in 1866, and is known only from the typical pair at Leyden.

10. *Führer on the Birds of Montenegro.*

[Beiträge zur Ornis Montenegro's und des angrenzenden Gebietes von Nordalbanien. Von Ludwig von Führer. Ornithol. Jahrb. xi. pp. 165-189, xii. pp. 1-79.]

This is a contribution to that excellent piece of work, Reiser's '*Ornis Baleanica*,' which is now approaching completion, and gives an account of the author's travels in Montenegro and the adjoining countries in pursuit of a better knowledge of their birds. The appended list of species met with in Montenegro and on the Albanian frontiers contains 256 names. Amongst them are *Accipiter brevipes* Severzow, *Gypaëtus barbatus*, and *Anser neglectus* Suschkin.

11. *Godman's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman. (Zoology.) Parts CLXIII.-CLXVIII. (R. H. Porter.)]

Good progress is now being made with the "Aves" of the '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*,' and three more portions have been issued since our last notice (*Ibis*, 1901, p. 501). In these the Accipitres are finished, and the succeeding Orders Steganopodes and Herodiones are treated.

12. *Goeldi on the Birds of Amazonia.*

[Album de Aves Amazonicas organizado pelo Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi, Director do Museu Paraense e publicado por ordem de S. Exc^a O. Snr. Dr. José Paes de Carvalho, Governador do Estado do Para. Supplemto illustrativo a obra 'Aves do Brazil' perlo Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi. Fasc. I. 4to. Zurich, 1900.]

Our ever active friend Dr. Goeldi is issuing a supplement to his '*Aves do Brazil*' (see *Ibis*, 1901, p. 501), containing a series of coloured figures of the more prominent Amazonian birds; of this the first part is now before us. It contains twelve plates, painted in colours, which give representations of groups of species of the different families that frequent the mighty river and its vicinity. The figures are mostly well drawn and are coloured with quite sufficient accuracy to render the species recognisable. We have no doubt that Dr. Goeldi's work will do much to promote the study of our favourite science in South America.

13. *Harris on Birds of the Canaries and South Africa.*

[Essays and Photographs. Some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa. By Henry E. Harris. 8vo. London, 1901. Pp. i-xiv, 1-212. Price 21s. net.]

Mr. Harris, though he tells us that his main object was to secure photographs, and that he did not originally contemplate writing a book in connexion with them, gives us a very pleasant account of his adventures in the Canary Islands and Cape Colony during the year 1899. His descriptions of the natural beauties of the country and of the inhabitants are very picturesque, while he affords a considerable amount of information about the birds at their breeding-quarters, and is decidedly successful in his attempt to portray them by means of the camera. Of the plates, perhaps the most interesting are those of "ploughing with camels," of the eggs of the Cream-coloured Courser and of the sitting bird, of the nests of the Houbara Bustard, the Secretary-bird, the Lark-heeled Cuckoo and the Hammerkop, of the Stanley Cranes, the Gannets, and the Penguins; though some Passerine birds are also well represented. Six months were spent in Fuerteventura and Tenerife, and an equal period in South Africa; but, as to the islands, the time of year was too early for a perfectly successful ornithological expedition. In Fuerteventura the main places visited were La Oliva, La Antigua, Tuineje, and Puerto Cabras; in Tenerife, Vilaflor, Garachico, and Orotava (where the flower-carpet was on view); and in Cape Colony, Houw Hoek, Stanford, Caledon, Bot River Vley, Knysna, Bird Island, Seal Island, and Saint Croix—the last three in Algoa Bay.

14. *Hartert on his former Travels and Researches.*

[Aus den Wanderjahren eines Naturforschers. Reisen und Forschungen in Afrika, Asien und Amerika. Von Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. pp. 221-355.]

Mr. Hartert proposes to give us an account of his former travels and researches in various parts of the world in 'Novitates Zoologicæ,' and begins here with the first eight chapters of it. The first four contain an interesting narrative of his journey through Nigeria to Kano and Socoto in 1885, in which many zoological allusions are introduced. Some

good photographs and excellent maps illustrate this part of the work. (See 'Ibis,' 1887, p. 353.)

The fifth chapter is devoted to an essay on the Fauna of the Canary Islands, the Avifauna of which has been of late years so fully worked out by Mr. Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1889-94) and Dr. König (Journ. f. Orn. 1890). The 63 "breeding-birds" of the group are enumerated, and various new Canarian "subspecies" are created. In the course of the remarks it is proposed to make of our British Robin a subspecies *Erithacus rubecula melophilus*, and of our Swift a subspecies *Apus apus apus*.

The sixth chapter contains an enumeration of the 27 birds of the Los Islands, on the west coast of Africa, amongst which the most remarkable species is the extraordinary Sturnid *Coccycolius iris* Oust., only known as yet from this locality.

In the seventh and eighth chapters the author returns to "Haussaland," and gives us a list of the 189 species of birds as yet recorded to have been found within its limits. *Hypochæra* * *wilsoni* (scr. *Hypochera*) is described as a new species.

15. *Hartert on new Birds from Ecuador.*

[On some Birds from North-west Ecuador. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. pp. 369-371.]

The following species are described—*Neocrex uniformis* and *Pittasoma rufopileatum*, besides some subspecies, while the remarkable *Dacnis berlepschi* Hart. and *Grallaria purambæ* Rothsch. (already characterized in the Bull. B. O. C.) are figured.

16. *Harting's 'Handbook of British Birds.'*

[A Handbook of British Birds, showing the Distribution of the Resident and Migratory Species in the British Islands, with an Index to the Records of the Rarer Visitors. By J. E. Harting, F.L.S., F.Z.S. New and revised edition. London: John C. Nimmo, 1901. 1 vol. 8vo. 520 pp. Price 42s. net. †]

* Cf. Bp. Consp. i. p. 450 and the Greek Dictionary (*χίρα, vidua*).

† This work was published last year, but the copy sent to us was accidentally mislaid, and escaped our notice until it was too late for the last number.—EDD.

Mr. Harting's 'Handbook' of 1872* is known to all of us. He has now re-issued it in a much extended form, and illustrated it by a series of coloured figures of the heads of the birds, prepared from the drawings of the late Professor Schlegel. We have, therefore, now before us a volume of 520 pages and 35 plates.

As in the former work, British Birds are divided into two distinct categories—one containing "residents, periodical migrants, and annual visitants," and the other "rare and accidental visitants." Under the former heading are placed 262 species, under the latter 167—making altogether 429 species considered as appertaining to the British Avifauna. It is, of course, in many cases difficult to decide whether certain species should be placed in the first or second of these divisions, but in most cases our author seems to have come to a correct decision upon this point.

A very valuable feature in the second part of Mr. Harting's volume is the list of references to the records of the occurrences of the "rare and accidental visitors" in Britain. With the help of this we can find at once how many times any rarity that may turn up has occurred, where to look for an account of it, and, in many cases, where each individual specimen has been preserved. The Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*), for instance, has occurred three times in the British area (*cf.* p. 372) and references are given to the records of the three specimens.

In his nomenclature and arrangement our author is delightfully conservative. "Subspecies" and "homonyms" are alike ignored, and the good old-fashioned names, "understood of the people," are sternly adhered to. It is really refreshing, in these days, to find a naturalist who objects to the much-adored principle of unlimited priority, and boldly says:—"The increasing practice of changing well-known names for newly discovered ones on the ground of priority I regard as a misfortune to Science, for there is no finality in such a proceeding and never likely to be."

At the same time, as regards arrangement, we could not

* See 'Ibis,' 1872, p. 94.

go so far with Mr. Harting as to continue to keep the Accipitres at the head of the Class of Birds, and to sink the highly developed Swallows to the bottom of the Passeres, in order to bring them next to the Swifts. These, however, are but small blemishes in a useful work, well printed and well illustrated, which should be in the library of every "British bird-man."

17. *Hellmayr on the Genus Polioptila.*

[Zur Revision der Gattung *Polioptila*. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. viii. pp. 356-361.]

The genus *Polioptila* is re-revised (*cf.* Nov. Zool. vii. p. 555) and a new "subspecies" is described.

18. '*Irish Naturalist.*'

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. Edited by G. H. Carpenter and R. Lloyd Praeger. Vol. x. Nos. 1-12. Eason & Sons, Dublin.]

This Journal makes a worthy commencement of the year 1901 with a notice by Mr. Ussher of Mr. R. M. Barrington's excellent volume on the 'Migration of Birds observed at Irish Light Stations.' A Tawny Owl recorded by Mr. Robert Patterson from Co. Down, and believed to be the first authenticated Irish example, was subsequently shown by the same gentleman to be one of nine birds obtained in the New Forest in June 1900 (during the close-time) and liberated in Co. Down by a gentleman who took "some interest in ornithology," but did not think it necessary to mention the introduction in print. This the Editors stigmatize as "falsifying the geographical record," and they proceed to express their opinion that, in some cases, "the introducer is almost as great an enemy to science as the exterminator." However, most of these Owls have already perished, as they were proscribed because they disturbed the neighbourhood by their hooting. Dr. Patters has a somewhat lengthy article on the Grey Phalarope, while among the various occurrences may be cited those of a Roller in Donegal, an adult King-Eider in Co. Down, and a young

Cuckoo killed by striking the lantern of the Skulmartin Lightship on the 26th of November, 1900—the latest date on record, we believe. So little is known about the Great and Sooty Shearwaters on our coasts that we welcome Mr. Ussher's paper on the frequency and abundance of these birds off the coasts of Kerry, Cork, and Waterford; the information being mainly derived from the experiences of Mr. H. Becher, who has, by the way, contributed some valuable notes respecting the autumn of 1901 to 'The Field,' and has sent some much-desired specimens to the Dublin Museum. Similar examples would be much appreciated at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.—H. S.

19. *Le Souëf on the Eggs of Pitta iris.*

[Description of Eggs of the Rainbow-Pitta, *Pitta iris*. By D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S. Vict. Nat. xviii. p. 157.]

Mr. Le Souëf gives us an account of the nest and eggs of *Pitta iris*, taken on the Daly River, N.W. Australia, on the 24th of December, 1900. Mr. Campbell ('Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds,' p. 529) has mentioned them as "undescribed."

20. *Le Souëf on the Water-Birds of Riverina.*

[Among the Waterfowl in Riverina. By D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S. Vict. Nat. xviii. pp. 1-7.]

Mr. Le Souëf read before the Field-Naturalist Club of Victoria in February last year an account of his visit to the swamps of the Riverina district of New South Wales in the preceding December. The most interesting object noticed was a mixed breeding-colony of Cormorants, Herons, Spoonbills, and Ibises, with a single nest of the Wedge-tailed Eagle. Other birds were also met with.

21. *Martorelli on new Cases of Hybridism in Birds.*

[Due nuovi casi d'Ibridismo negli Uccelli. Nota Ornitologica del socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xl. pp. 1-23.]

Prof. Martorelli describes and figures two supposed

hybrids taken when adult and in the wild state. The first is attributed to *Turdus pilaris* and *T. merula*, and the second to *Dafila acuta* and *Anas boscas*.

22. Matschie on the Zoo-geography of Western Micronesia.

[Bemerkungen zur Zoogeographie des westlichen Mikronesiens. Von Paul Matschie. J. f. O. 1901, pp. 109-114.

Die Vogelwelt der neuesten deutschen Besitzungen in der Südsee. Von Paul Matschie. Illustrierte Deutsche Monatshefte, lxxxix. pp. 405-419.]

Under the name Micronesia the author designates the Pacific Islands lying between 130° and 180° W. long., *i. e.* the Pelew Islands, Yap, the Mariannes, and the Carolines. After quoting Wigglesworth's 'Aves Polynesiaë,' he mentions recent additional authorities on this Avifauna and discusses its various relationships. Most of the genera not endemic are apparently Papuan. Tables of distribution are given, and it is shown that Micronesia may be divided into five smaller Avifaunas—Pelews, Yap, Mariannes, and Western and Eastern Carolines.

The same subject is pursued in the popular article in Westermann's 'Illustrierte Deutsche Monatshefte,' and is illustrated with figures of some of the more remarkable birds of Micronesia, and with a map, which shews the proposed divisions of its Avifauna very plainly.

23. Matschie on the Cassowaries.

[Einige Bemerkungen über die Verbreitung und Systematik der Kasuare. Von Paul Matschie. J. f. O. 1901, pp. 265-269.]

The publication of Mr. Rothschild's elaborate memoir on the Cassowaries in the 'Transactions of the Zoological Society of London' has induced Herr Matschie to prepare a series of notes on various points in the distribution and systematic arrangement of these birds. Amongst these he calls attention to the fact that the figures given by Mr. Rothschild of *Casuarius uni-appendiculatus* do not agree accurately with Blyth's original description of this species. Herr Matschie therefore believes these figures to represent a

different species, which he proposes to call *C. rothschildi*; of this there is also a young example living in the Zoological Garden of Berlin.

24. *Meyer and Heller on the Eggs of Æpyornis.*

[Æpyornis-Eier von Dr. A. B. Meyer und Dr. K. M. Heller. Abh. u. Ber. k. Zool. u. Anthrop.-Ethn. Mus. z. Dresden, Bd. ix. 1900-1.]

The two fossil eggs of *Æpyornis* in the Dresden Museum are carefully described and figured, and a list, with accurate dimensions, is given of all the eggs of the Æpyornithidæ known to exist in collections. Thirty-three specimens are catalogued, with lengths varying from 344.2 to 279 mm. They belong probably to several species.

25. *Milligan on new Australian Birds.*

[Description of a new Species of *Mirafra* (Bush-Lark) from Western Australia. By Alex. W. Milligan, Perth. Vict. Nat. xviii. p. 25.]

Description of a new Species of *Amytis* (Grass-bird) from Western Australia. By Alex. W. Milligan, Perth. Vict. Nat. xviii. p. 27.]

The *Mirafra* is characterized and named *M. woodwardi* and the *Amytis* *A. gigantura*.

26. *North on Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania. (Second edition of Catalogue No. xii., entirely rewritten with additions.) By A. J. North. Part I. 4to. Sydney, 1901.]

The species here fully discussed and illustrated in the text are *Corvus coronoides*, *C. bennetti*, *Corone australis*, *Strepera graculina*, *S. arguta*, *S. melanoptera*, *S. cuneicaudata*, *S. plumbea*, *S. fuliginosa*, *Struthidea cinerea*, *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, *Ptilorhis paradisea*, *P. victoriae*, *Craspedophora alberti*, *Phonygama gouldi*, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*. Some of the nests are also figured, and the coloured plate contains eggs of *Corone australis*, *Gymnorhina tibicen*, *G. leuconota*, *Corvus coronoides*, *Strepera arguta*, *S. melanoptera*, *S. fuliginosa*, *S. graculina*, and *S. cuneicaudata*.

Information of all sorts is given, as is usual in Mr. North's works, while it is noticeable that he, with his opportunities

for observation of the live birds, places *Strepera* and *Struthidea* under the head of the Corvinæ, and *Corcorax* under the Fregilinæ. Details concerning Paradise-birds always maintain their interest, many of the nests and eggs having been quite recently discovered; the author, moreover, figures and discusses the curious tracheæ of *Phonygama gouldi*, *P. keraudreni*, and *Manucodia comrii*.

27. North on new Australian Birds.

[Description of the Nest and Eggs of the Painted Honey-eater, *Entomophila picta* Gould. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Vict. Nat. xvii.

Description of a new Species of the Genus *Malurus*. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Vict. Nat. xviii. p. 29.]

Mr. North describes the nest and eggs of the beautiful Honey-eater, *Entomophila picta*, from specimens taken near Bathurst, N.S.W., and a new *Malurus* from the interior of Australia—*M. assimilis*, allied to *M. lamberti*.

28. Regalia on the Cave-fauna of Palmaria.

[Sulla Fauna della "Buca del Bersagliere" e sull'età dei depositi della vicina "Grotta dei Colombi" (Is. Palmaria, Spezia). Nota di E. Regalia. Archiv. per l'Antropol. e l'Etnol. xxx. pp. 277-332.]

This is an account of recent investigations in the caves of the island of Palmaria, near Spezia, and especially of the newly-explored "Buca del Bersagliere." Remains of about 36 species of birds were discovered in the last-named cave, and the list is compared with that of the previously examined "Grotta dei Colombi." All the species of birds belong to Italian forms now in existence.

29. Rothschild and Hartert on Birds from the Solomon Group.

[List of a Collection of Birds from Kulambangra and Florida Islands, in the Solomon Group. By Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. pp. 179-189.]

The birds of the Solomon Group are of special interest, as most of the islands contain local forms often provided with strong differential characters. The authors describe

collections recently received at the Tring Museum from their Collector, Mr. A. S. Meek, from Kulambangra, north of New Georgia, and from Florida near Guadalcanar.

The species represented in these two collections are 48 in number, of which 9 are described as new—namely, *Zosterops kulambangræ*, *Z. floridanus*, *Graucalus hypoleucus*, *Myzomela eichhorni*, *M. kulambangræ*, *Myiagra feminina*, *Rhipidura albina*, *Cacomantis addendus*, and *Hypocharmosyna meeki*, besides several subspecies.

In a footnote the *Eurystomus* of New Hanover is separated as *E. neo-hanoveranus* (!scr. *novo-hanoveranus*).

30. *Salvadori on Birds from Spitsbergen.*

[Intorno ad alcuni Uccelli della Spitzberghe. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. d. Zool. e. Anat. Comp. d. R. Univ. d. Torino, xvi. no. 388.]

This is an account of the birds obtained in Spitsbergen during the visit there of King Victor-Immanuel III. (then Prince of Naples) in the summer of 1898 (see Mem. Soc. Geogr. Ital. ix. p. 82). The 74 bird-skins brought home are referred to 14 species, all well known. But Count Salvadori takes this opportunity to demonstrate that the so-called *Lagopus hemileucurus* of Spitsbergen is merely a phase of plumage of *L. hyperboreus*.

31. *Saunders on Antarctic Birds.*

[The Antarctic Manual for the use of the Expedition of 1901. Edited by George Murray, F.R.S. Birds: by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S. Pp. 225-238. Royal Geographical Society, 1 Savile Row, London, 1901.]

In the Manual composed for the use of our Antarctic explorers, edited by Mr. George Murray, will be found an excellent essay on the birds of the South Polar Regions, prepared by Mr. Howard Saunders. After a general discussion of the Penguins, Petrels, and Gulls met with to the south of 60° or a trifle to the northward, which form the bulk of the Antarctic Ornis, and allusions to the Sheath-bills (*Chionis*) and a Cormorant which is not yet properly identified, a systematic list of the 26 species more or less

certainly known as Antarctic is given; those found within the Antarctic Circle being designated by small capitals. There are only eight of the latter.

32. Sharpe's 'Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds.'

[A Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds. (Nomenclator Avium tum Fossilium tum Viventium.) By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. Vol. III. London, 1901. Pp. xii, 367. Price 10s. 6d.]

In the third volume of the 'Hand-list' the formidable task of cataloguing the great group of Passeres is commenced, and carried through the Mesomyodians into the Oscines. The fourth volume, to be issued, we are informed, in 1902, will contain the enumeration of the remaining Oscines and complete this important work.

The following table shows the numbers of the genera and species catalogued in the present volume, according to the classification there adopted:—

Order.	No. of genera.	No. of species.
XXXIV. Eurylæmiformes.....	7	16
XXXV. Menuriformes	1	3
XXXVI. Passeriformes.		
Subord. Mesomyodi	242	1665
,, Acromyodi	127	1256
	377	2940

So that we have enumerated in all 2940 species referred to 377 genera.

The task of classifying the Acromyodi or Oscines correctly is, as Dr. Sharpe allows, almost hopeless, according to the present state of our knowledge; but we cannot quite understand why he should commence his list with the Swallows. The Hirundinidæ, which have entirely lost their outer primary, are without doubt one of the most highly developed forms of Oscinine bird-life and should come very near the top of the series—*i. e.* at the further end—in a classification which commences, as Dr. Sharpe's does, from the bottom.

We also venture to suggest that it would have been a great

convenience to use the names of Families as "running titles" in the Hand-list instead of "Genera and Species of Birds," which is a piece of quite useless information to those who consult the work.

33. *Shufeldt on the Screamers.*

[On the Osteology and Systematic Position of the Screamers (*Palamedea: Chauna*). By R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat. xxxv. pp. 455-461.]

Dr. Shufeldt compares the principal points of structure of the Screamer, the Swan, and the Turkey in a tabular form, and concludes that, taken as a whole, the Anserine characters of the Screamer are more evident than those of the other forms. "The Screamers should be placed near the Anseres, but apart and in an independent group." Most other modern authorities are of exactly the same opinion.

34. *Shufeldt on the Coccoyges.*

[The Osteology of the Cuckoos [Coccoyges]. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. xl. No. 165, pls. i, ii.]

In the present paper Dr. Shufeldt treats the Cuckoos of the United States after his usual fashion in writing of such groups. His own work on the same subject and the writings of other authors having been discussed, he reprints, with additions, one of his former articles on the osteology of *Geococcyx californianus*, which is followed by a note on its young, accounts of the osteology of *Crotophaga* and *Coccyzus* (including the young of the latter), and a synopsis of the osteology of the Crotophaginæ, Centropodinæ (represented by *Geococcyx*), and Cuculinæ (represented by *Coccyzus*). Lastly, he treats of the affinities of the Cuckoos, and finds in them much less kinship to the Caprimulgi, Cypseli, Trogones, Trochili, and Pici than to the other Picarian forms. As opposed to Dr. Sharpe, he would place *Diplopterus* directly between the Centropodinæ and Cuculinæ. In *Geococcyx* he finds the skull to differ from that described by Huxley, the pelvis to resemble that of *Porzana carolina*, and the tibio-tarsal shaft of comparatively large size in the young.

35. *Southwell on the Breeding of the Crane in East Anglia.*

[On the Breeding of the Crane in East Anglia. By Thomas Southwell, F.Z.S. Trans. Norf. & Norw. Nat. Soc. vii. pp. 160-170.]

In this article Mr. Southwell has put together many interesting notices respecting the habitual use of the Crane for food in England in former days. On one celebrated occasion in the reign of Edward IV. as many as 204 of these unfortunate fowls were included in the bill of fare. As regards the regular breeding of the Crane in the Eastern Counties, though this was probably the case, the evidence is but scanty. It appears certain, however, that on the 4th June, 1543, a "yong pyper Crane," which could hardly have been bred elsewhere, was obtained at Hickling, in Norfolk; and Dr. William Turner, in his 'Avium Historia' (1544), is most precise in his statement that in his days Cranes nested in the English marshes and that he had often seen their "*pipiones*."

36. *Stark's 'Birds of South Africa.'*

[The Fauna of South Africa. Birds: Vol. II. By A. C. Stark, M.B. Completed by W. L. Sclater, M.A., F.Z.S. London, 1901. R. H. Porter. Pp. xiv & 323. (Cf. Ibis, 1900, p. 394.) Price 21s. net.]

The present volume of the 'Birds of South Africa' has been completed by Mr. W. L. Sclater, the Editor of the Series, owing to the sad death of Dr. Stark during the siege of Ladysmith. The manuscript had been finished by the author, but required a considerable amount of revision and addition to bring it up to date; so that Mr. Sclater found it no slight task to prepare the sheets for the press, though as to the successful nature of his efforts there can be no two opinions. Mr. A. D. Millar of Durban, Dr. A. Reichenow of Berlin, Capt. Shelley, and Dr. Sclater are specially mentioned in the Preface as having given considerable assistance.

The families treated in this instalment are the Laniidæ, Crateropodidæ, Sylviidæ, Turdidæ, Muscicapidæ, Dicuridæ, Campophagidæ, Hirundinidæ, and Pittidæ, while the plan and arrangement of the whole work have been already noticed in

our pages. Eighty-three illustrations are given, chiefly of heads, feet, wings, and tails, but in a few cases of the nests: many of them giving a beautifully soft appearance to the parts figured.

The book contains a very large fund of information condensed into a reasonable space; but no one can read it without being struck by the immense amount of field-work that yet remains to be done with regard to South-African birds, the nests and eggs of many species—even of some breeding in Cape Colony—being as yet unrecorded. Anderson, the Layards, Ayres, are often almost the sole authorities that can be quoted; though a great advance has evidently been made of late, for which we are largely indebted to Capt. Alexander (the Zambesi), the Messrs. Woodward and Mr. Millar (Natal and Zululand), and Mr. Marshall (Mashonaland).

37. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on Birds from Madeira.*

[Neue Formen von Madeira. Von Vict. Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornithol. Monatsber. ix. pp. 129-131.]

It is here proposed to separate the Blackcap of Madeira as a subspecies, because of the browner tint of the plumage, also the Spectacled Warbler, Linnet, and Goldfinch of the same island, on what appear to be very slight grounds. The Goldfinch of Madeira is stated to be "smaller," but only two specimens have been examined, and we venture to say that small as well as large Goldfinches may easily be found in Europe. The author also wishes to separate the Mountain Accentor of Dalmatia, Montenegro, and Greece as *Accentor collaris reiseri*, because of its grey upper plumage.

38. *Vallon on Count Arrigoni's Collection of Birds.*

[Die Sammlung italienischer Vögel des Professors Graf Arrigoni degli Oddi in Caoddo (Monselice) bei Padua. Von G. Vallon. Ornithol. Jahrb. xii. pp. 89-97.]

Herr Vallon, of Udine, has paid a visit to the celebrated Collection of Italian Birds belonging to Count Arrigoni degli Oddi, of Caoddo near Padua, and gives us an interesting account of it. There are about 7200 specimens

in the Italian Collection, of which about 4500 are skins and 1900 are set up, besides some 800 that are exotic. The series of colour-variations—albinisms and other kinds—is very rich. The skins are excellently made, carefully arranged, and fully labelled. Herr Vallon gives a long list of the more remarkable specimens, amongst which, we notice, are nine examples of *Buteo desertorum* and three of *B. ferox*, one of *Falco islandicus* from Venetia, also specimens of *Dendrocopus lilfordi*, *Turdus fuscatus*, *Budytes citreolus*, *Emberiza aureola*, *E. rustica*, and *E. pusilla*, with many other Italian rarities. The Count has, moreover, a considerable series of hybrids.

39. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses*, 1900.

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1900. 18de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. fra d. naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1901, pp. 67-128.]

From the eighteenth report on the birds taken and observed at the Danish Lighthouses (see *Ibis*, 1901, p. 150) we learn that 700 specimens were received in the year 1900 at the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, from 33 lighthouses. They are referred to 53 species. An example of the slender-billed form of the Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes leptorhynchus*) was taken at the Hestehoved Station on Oct. 30th.

The total number of species as yet registered in these lists is 144.

X.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters since our last issue :—

SIRS,—Amongst the many interesting spring displays of the *Anatidæ*, that of the male Baer's Duck, which I have studied in the specimens living in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London, is somewhat remarkable. He commences to "draw" about the same time as the Scaup Duck, to which the species is evidently closely allied, and as regards his nuptial courtship is similar in many respects to that bird.